

CLAIMS

I claim:

- Sub
all
- 5
- 003211 112300
1. A control system coupled externally to a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the control system comprising, in combination:
- an actuator that can be selectively actuated by a human;
 - a controller receiving an actuation signal in response to actuation of the actuator;
 - a routine performed by the controller for (i) determining, based at least on the actuation signal and the status of the subscriber terminal, an action to be taken by the subscriber terminal, (ii) generating a directive indicative of the action, and (iii) sending the directive to the subscriber terminal,
- whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the action in response to the directive.
2. The control system of claim 1, further comprising:
- a microphone for receiving audio signals to be provided to the subscriber terminal,
- whereby the audio signals may comprise speech signals.
3. The control system of claim 1, further comprising:
- an audio output source for providing audio signals from the subscriber terminal to a speaker, to be heard by a human.
4. The control system of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a single button that can be by the human.

5. The control system of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a single rotary dial.

6. The control system of claim 1, wherein:

the controller comprises a processor, a memory, and a set of machine language instructions stored in the memory and executable by the processor; and the machine language instructions define the routine.

7. The control system of claim 1, wherein the subscriber terminal defines a plurality of functions and wherein the action comprises the subscriber terminal carrying out one or more of those functions.

8. The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and idle, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal dialing one or more digits suitable for establishing a dial-up connection to a voice-activated-dialing platform,

whereby, once the subscriber terminal is connected to the voice-activated-dialing platform, a human may speak into a microphone so as to provide speech signals that may be recognized and acted upon by the voice-activated-dialing platform.

9. The control system of claim 8, wherein the one or more digits are selected from the group consisting of (i) a feature code and (ii) a telephone number.

10. The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal terminating the call.

11. The control system of claim 10, wherein the controller determines the action in response to, in combination, (i) the subscriber terminal being on and engaged in a call and (ii) the actuation signal reflecting that the actuator was actuated for at least a predetermined duration.

12. The control system of claim 11, wherein the predetermined duration is 1.5 seconds.

13. The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and receiving an incoming call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal connecting to the call.

14. The control system of claim 1, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.

15. The control system of claim 1, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

16. A method for controlling communications of a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal having a status, the method comprising, in combination:

receiving an indication of the status of the subscriber terminal;

receiving an actuation signal provided in response to a human actuating an actuator;

in response to the indication of status and the actuation signal, determining an action to be taken by the subscriber terminal; and

sending a directive to the subscriber terminal indicating the action to be taken,

whereby the subscriber terminal may then take the action.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and idle, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal dialing one or more digits suitable for establishing a dial-up connection to a voice-activated dialing platform.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the one or more digits are selected from the group consisting of (i) a feature code and (ii) a telephone number.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal terminating the call.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein determining the action comprises determining the action based at least in part on a combination of (i) the subscriber terminal being on and

engaged in a call and (ii) the actuation signal reflecting that the actuator was actuated for at least a predetermined duration.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the predetermined duration is 1.5 seconds.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and receiving an incoming call, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal connecting to the call.

23. The method of claim 16, wherein, if the subscriber terminal is on and engaged in a call placed via a voice-activated-dialing platform, then the action comprises the subscriber terminal sending one or more digits to the voice-activated-dialing platform suitable for instructing the voice-activated-dialing platform to disconnect the call but to retain a connection between the voice-activated-dialing platform and the subscriber terminal, whereby another call may then be placed from the subscriber terminal via the voice-activated dialing platform.

24. The method of claim 16, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

25. A system for establishing communication with a voice-activated-dialing platform, the system comprising, in combination:

a wireless subscriber terminal having a status and being arranged to communicate with a wireless telecommunications network;

a single actuator external to the wireless subscriber terminal

a controller externally coupled to the wireless subscriber terminal

a microphone for receiving human speech signals, wherein the signals may be provided to the wireless subscriber terminal;

the controller having program logic arranged to (i) receive an indication of the status of the subscriber terminal and to receive an actuation signal in response to actuation of the single -
actuator (ii) determine, based at least on the indication and the actuation signal, that the wireless subscriber terminal should dial digits suitable for establishing a dial-up connection over the wireless telecommunications network with the voice-activated-dialing platform, and (iii) send to wireless subscriber terminal a directive suitable for causing the wireless subscriber terminal to dial the digits,

whereby, when a human actuates the single actuator, the program logic causes the controller to send the directive to the wireless subscriber terminal, the wireless subscriber terminal dials the digits and establishes a dial-up connection with the voice-activated-dialing platform, and the human may then speak into the microphone so as to provide speech signals to the wireless subscriber terminal that may then be conveyed via the telecommunications network to the voice-activated dialing platform.